HEAVEN'S METAL

#93: SACRED WARRIOR | ULTIMATUM

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METAL TO BE DEALT WITH

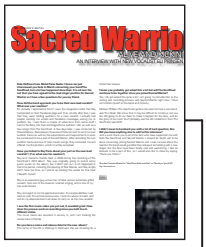
Comming In 2013
Saint Video EP Release
"The Legend Lives On"

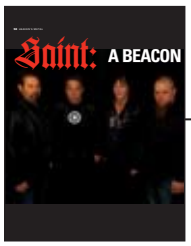
ARMOR RECORDS

SACRED WARRIOR'S NEW MUSIC JUST KILLS ... CAN'T WAIT 'TIL CHRISTMAS!

Ever get excited about new music? It happens to us, too. If you haven't taken a peek at that Sacred Warrior video yet, go do it now – (sacredwarrior.net). There's a new Deliverance and a new Recon album on the horizon, too. I'm dreaming of a White Metal Christmas, how 'bout you? To make things more metal and run smoother and more streamlined (and I just feel the urge to blurt out "Steelheart" right now ... call it a non-profane form of Terret's Syndrome, or chalk it up to how silly us Heaven's Metal staffers get around each other), we have promoted Chris Gatto to Managing Editor of the Heaven's Metal section. If you don't like some band we cover or a decision we make, go ahead and blame me (even though it'll be Gatto's fault). We've also added heavy metal vocal shredder Scott Waters to the Heaven's Metal Karew, too. If this doesn't improve our coverage, I don't know what will. Turn it up.

Doug Van Pelt





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Sacred Warrior

ALIVE AND KICKIN'

AN INTERVIEW WITH NEW VOCALIST ELI PRINSEN

BY DALE HUFFMAN

Dale Huffman from Metal Pulse Radio: I know we just interviewed you back in March concerning your band The Sacrificed, but a lot has happened since then. It is all over the net that you have agreed to the lead singer position for Sacred Warrior so I have a few questions for you my friend.

How did the band approach you to be their new lead vocalist? What was your reaction?
Eli: Actually, I approached them! I saw the resignation letter that Rey had posted on their Facebook page and then, shortly after that, I saw that they were holding auditions for a new vocalist. I actually had people sending me emails and Facebook messages, asking me to audition. So, I sent them a couple of video links from some stuff I had on YouTube, like that old DragonForce audition I did, as well as a few songs from The Sacrificed. A few days later, I was contacted by Steve Watkins, (bass player / Executive Producer) and he sent me two audition tracks as well as the expectations and requirements to even be considered to be a part of Sacred Warrior. After recording the two audition tracks and one of their classic songs, they contacted me and offered me the position, which I humbly accepted.

Have you talked to Rey Parra about your part as the new lead vocalist? (if so what was his reaction?)
Rey and I became friends back in 2009 during the recording of The Sacrificed's *2012* album. Rey was originally going to record some guest vocals on the album, but it didn't pan out. A lot happened in that time period, including the passing of Rick Macias, and Rey simply didn't have the time, so I ended up tracking the vocals for that track ("Saved") myself.

Rey is an awesome guy, a true man of God, and an extremely gifted vocalist. He's one of the reasons I started singing, and is one of my top vocal heroes.

Rey conveyed to me his approval and also, the responsibilities I will take on with the utmost seriousness. I took his advice to heart, and will do my absolute best in all areas to carry on as the new vocalist.

I saw the first music video you put out, it sounded great. How does the process work on recording since you both live in different states.
The music tracks are recorded in Aurora, IL, and I am tracking the vocals here in Florida.

Do you have a name and release date for the new album?
The name of the CD is *Waiting In Darkness*. We are shooting for a Christmas release.

I know you probably get asked this a lot but will The Sacrificed continue to be together since you joined Sacred Warrior?
Yes, I do get asked this quite a bit. I am giving my full attention to the writing and recording process with Sacred Warrior right now. I have committed myself to this band and ministry.

Michael Phillips (The Sacrificed guitars) has also formed a new band, Join The Dead. We know that it may be difficult to continue, but we are still going to do our best to make it happen for the fans, and for the glory of our Lord. You'll probably see the 4th installment from The Sacrificed, late 2013.

I didn't mean to bombard you with a lot of hard question, Bro. Did you have anything else to add to this interview?
Just a quick thank you to all of the fans who have supported me with both The Sacrificed and Sacred Warrior. I prayed for God's will to be done concerning joining Sacred Warrior, and I was nervous about the reaction the band would get after they released something with a new singer, but the fans have been totally cool and welcoming. I feel so blessed to be a part of this, so I would also like to close by saying: "Thank you Father."

Tune Into Untombed Radio For "Metal Pulse Radio with Dale" on Thursday at 7pm (EST)
http://untombed.com

ULTIMATU

20 YEARS OF METAL, D

BY D

DALE FROM METAL PULSE RADIO HAD A CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH SCOTT WATERS FROM ULTIMATUM TO DISCUSS THE BAND'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY AND THEIR LATEST HAPPENINGS.

Dale: How are you doing Scott?
Scott: Doing great! Thanks for asking.

What did you do with your year and a half sabbatical?
During that year off, Alan was healing from surgery on his elbow. Robert hooked up with his ex-Angelic Force singer and formed Blue Ruin. They are still performing. My wife and I moved in with my mother-in-law for several months to help take care of her. She was diagnosed with ALS, more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. That time was rough on my whole family, but I'd do it all again in a heartbeat. She was a wonderful lady and it was worth the time we spent with her. Despite the hard work and tears, there was also plenty of laughter and good times.

Congratulations to you and the band on your 20th Anniversary! I see you have put out a new box set to celebrate. Who came up with the idea of releasing a box set?
It was a joint effort between myself and Bill Bafford at Roxx Productions. It originally started out as a new EP, but then the idea came for a 20th Anniversary release with new songs and old songs. Then Bill wanted to do something really special, so he came up with the idea for the box set. After that, we threw around ideas as to what should be in the box. We finally pegged it down.

What comes in the new box set?
Three CDs; the remastered and expanded version of *Puppet of Destruction*, a CD of studio outtakes and demos that the band recorded before *Into the Pit*. That CD will have the entire track listing from *Into the Pit* in alternative mixes, demos and production tracks. There's also a ton of bonus tracks on it with more alternative mixes and production tracks. The new CD, *Heart of Metal – 20 Years of Ultimatum,* will be packed full of remastered songs from the band's past and four new songs. The new CD will have a 16-page insert with tons of photos of the band and quotes from friends and fans of the band. There will also be a DVD that is to include two full live shows that were recorded in California and the official *Heart of Metal* video clip. The box itself is all black with white lettering and a silver foil embossed Ultimatum logo. The extras include four autographed photographs, a signature Robert Guiterrez guitar pick, a *Heart of Metal* stitched patch and a sticker of the CD artwork. It's a very nice collection and limited to only 100 hand-numbered copies.

There's been some controversy over the new cover art. What's your take on it?
Well, the whole concept was my idea. I had originally wanted Rex Zachary to do the illustration. Rex had done the *Into the Pit* cover. However, Rex didn't have the time, so Roxx suggested a different artist. Originally, the illustration was to be a musclebound metal-head with a metal heart in his hand. It ended up being a caricature of myself in my stage garb ripping out my own metal heart and offering it to the audience. It's suppose to have a comic book feel. I really like it. It has created some strong feelings. People either love it or hate it. I suppose that's a good thing. It gets people talking and people notice it. The cover was drawn by artist Dave Besanson.

Let's turn our attention to 20 years as a Christian Metal band. What changes have you seen in the Christian Metal scene in the past 20yrs; Good or bad?
It's become less of an exclusive scene. Back in the '80s, Christian metal was almost like this exclusive club and there was this huge gap between "secular" and "Christian" bands. Christian bands on Christian labels playing to a room full of Christians at a church. That's never the way it should have been. While it's important to uplift and edify other believers, we are also to "go into the world

M

DUDE

ALE HUFFMAN

and preach the good news." You see many bands today with a Christian message now doing tours with other bands, playing in the clubs, being a witness with their life, reaching out to a hurting world or just being a positive influence in a scene plagued with negativity.

Ultimatum has always been a heavy metal band. We are Christians and our lyrics reflect that. However, we are not in some separate genre from other heavy metal bands that sing about other topics. We have shared the stage with all sorts of bands who have any number of differing beliefs. That's the way it should be. We are to be an example to others, not hide in our Christian bubbles. When Ultimatum would play clubs, we would often help other bands set up and break down their gear. That's being a servant, rather than being a snob. People don't care what you know, until they see that you are a sincere person who truly believes what you are preaching. It's about serving others and pleasing the Father, not about being a part of some exclusive scene.

As well, it's nice seeing Christian bands that sing about other things than just "turn or burn" and "rock, rock for the Rock." There's nothing wrong with those lyrics, but God has given us so many great things to sing about. There's nothing wrong with writing a song about relationships, social issues, emotions, nature or whatever. In our case, because I write most of the lyrics and I am a Christian, even when I write about topics outside of the Bible, my faith is still seen in the lyrics. On the new CD coming out in October, there is a song call "Blood on 1000 Hills." It's about the Rwandan Genocides in 1994 in which some 800,000 people in the East African were slaughtered. I read a story about a church whose members were gunned down as they took refuge inside the sanctuary. Soldiers just pumped the building full of bullets, leaving hundreds dead. However, the few people that lived through it didn't give up. They didn't lose faith. Rather, they trusted God and moved forward with their lives and began rebuilding their church. They have hope in Jesus. So, while that song is about a terrible tragedy and isn't necessarily based on Scripture, the lyrics also show the side of hope and healing.

You guys have played many shows over the years, but what would you say has been you favorite show?
There have been many shows that I enjoyed. My favorite shows have always been those where the crowd was as into the show as I was. There's an energy that the band feeds off of and the crowd feeds off the band's energy. Some of my favorite shows were Cornerstone California, the Extreme Marti Gras show back in 2002, Up From the Ashes III in California and opening for Once Dead in Anaheim back in 2004. It's funny, but all those shows are in California. One of my personal favorite shows was when I sang for Once Dead in Switzerland at the Elements of Rock. I would love to see Ultimatum in front of that great European crowd.

Over the past 20 years what has been your favorite song to play live?
There are many of those. "Never" has always been a favorite. Though we don't always perform it. "Temple of the Spirit" is one of my favorites. "Greed Regime" is great, because it's a good head-banger and great for windmills and such. I also liked performing "Deathwish," because there is a part in the song where I go over to Robert, grab one of his picks and strum the part of the song while he plays the notes on the neck. I also had a blast playing some of the covers from *Lex Metalis*. "Ton of Bricks" is always a good barnstormer! The crowds always seem to like "Creeping Death," "Burn" or "Wrathchild."

Ultimatum has been around for 20 years, yet you've remained an underground band. How did you manage to hang on that long? How much longer do you think Ultimatum will go on?
Purely for the love of what we do. We are all heavy metal fans in a heavy metal band. It's never been about popularity or money for us. That's why we never bowed to trends, especially when heavy metal was a dirty word in the late '90s. We like playing music. We like being on stage. We love the Lord and feel called to do this. We didn't sell out stadiums, but we didn't sell out our integrity, either. That's why it lasted for 20 years. How much longer will it last? I can't say for sure. I love all the guys in this band like brothers and would hate to see it end. However, as we always have, we'll leave that in God's hands. If He wants things to move forward, then He will open the doors for us. If the door closes on Ultimatum tomorrow, well then that's okay, too.

You mentioned that there will be a few new songs on the Anniversary album… Does this mean we could possibly see a new release in the coming year?
I don't know the answer to that yet. We'll see where this release leads us next.

Thank you, Scott, for taking time with us. Do you have any last words to share with Ultimatum's fans?
We hope that you enjoy the music and we also hope that the lyrics to our songs will hit home with you. We have been unashamed of our Christian beliefs since we started. In a metal culture where Christianity is looked at as the enemy, it's been an uphill battle. Thanks for supporting us for the past 20 years.

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(Bottom photo by Kristian Thompson)

Saint: A BEACON

FOR A DESPARATE NIGHT

BY CHRIS GATTO

SAINT IS ONE OF THE LAST FEW REMAINING CHRISTIAN METAL "APOSTLES" OF THE LATE '70S AND EARLY '80S, THAT RODE FORTH SIX-STRING IN HAND TO SPREAD THE GOSPEL ALL OVER THE WORLD (SWEDEN'S JERUSALEM ALSO COMES TO MIND.) MANY WOULD FOLLOW, BUT SAINT WOULD CHOOSE THEIR OWN PATH, ESCHEWING THE HAIR METAL EXPLOSION FOR A DARKER, MORE TRADITIONAL METAL SOUND. THEIR DEMISE AT THE END OF THE '80S MARKED THE END OF AN ERA. BUT AFTER THE DARK AGES OF THE '90S, WHEN GRUNGE AND ALT ROCK HAD THEIR DAY, A NEW MILLENIUM DAWNED AND THE GUITAR SOLO WAS ONCE AGAIN REVERED. SAINT RETURNED ONCE AGAIN TO SOLDIER ON, BATTLE HARDENED AND STRONGER THAN BEFORE. GET THE SKINNY ON SAINT'S NEW LATEST AND GREATEST *DESPERATE NIGHT*, AS WE SPEAK TO MASTER ARMORER RICH LYNCH.

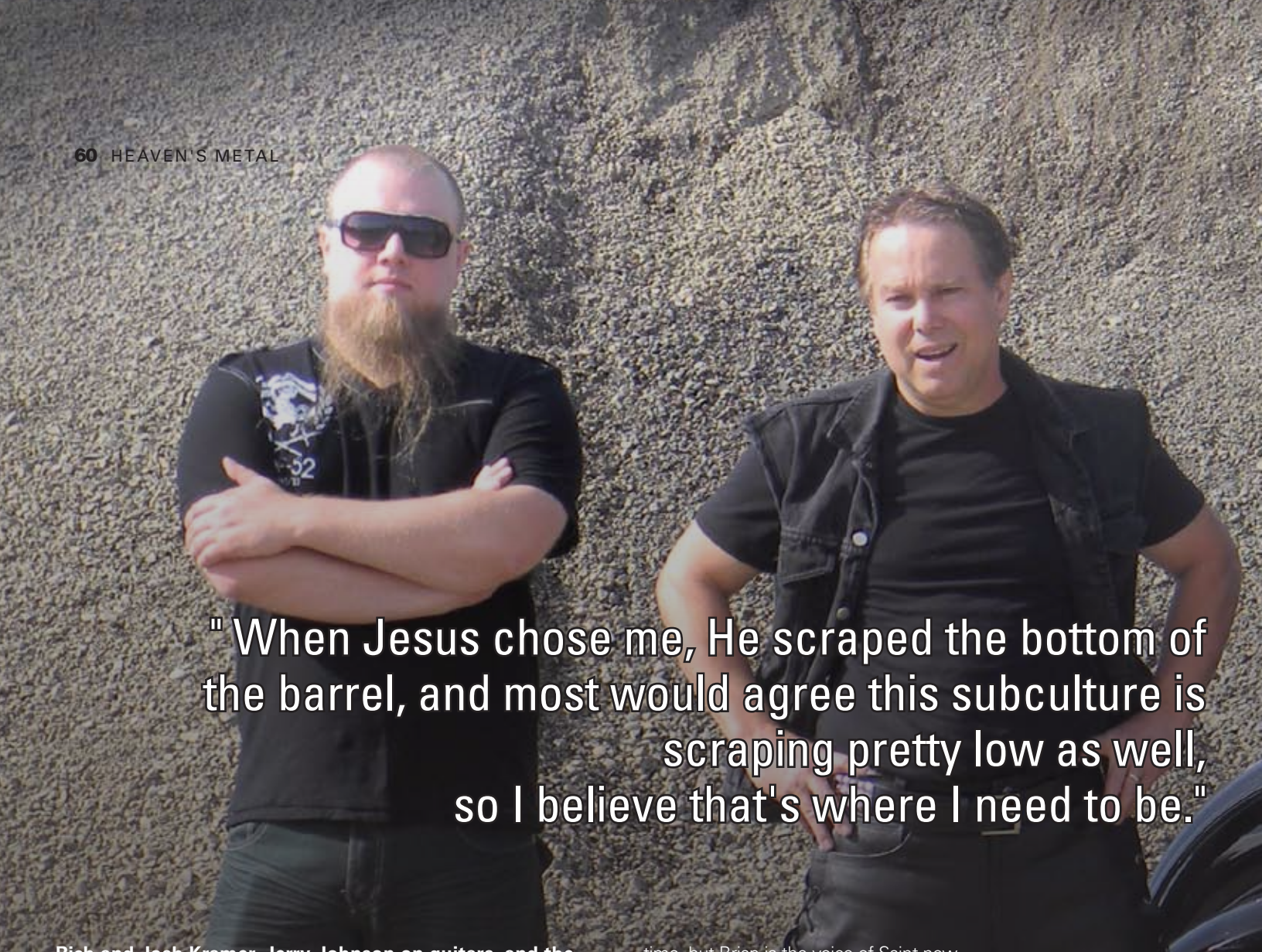
Chris Gatto: There's something strange going on here. Saint was a power metal cult classic of the '80s, beloved by many fans, yet it was their 2010 release *Hell Blade* that ended up ranked highest in *Heaven's Metal*'s "Top 100 Christian metal albums of all time" list a couple years ago. And the new CD, *Desperate Night*? Even better. Same band, same message, and signature sound. Rich, all of a sudden it seems you guys are surpassing anything Saint did in the golden era of metal (the '80s). Can you explain that?
Rich Lynch: Older wiser, new cast with new influences. We're trying to hang on to the original Saint sound, yet bring freshness to the stage. That happens when you bring in a 32-year-old drummer, who also is an excellent studio engineer. I'm finding the happy medium, so to speak, between the new style and the traditional style of metal and adding them together. It's kind of like mixing sugar with sugar – you can't go wrong.

The cover art for *Desperate Night*. For the first time (I believe), we see a symbol repeated on an album cover. That symbol is the staff with skull, horns, and blades referred to as the "Hell Blade" on the last album. Is there any significance to its appearance here? Also on the cover art are two knights facing each other and one is pointing something out in the background, which is a world awash in reddish colors. Is this meant to be a pun on desperate night/ desperate knight? There is a picture of someone with hands covering their face on the disc itself, which portrays a desperate night. I love the artwork – just trying to root out any deeper meaning behind it.
Yes, apocalyptic-styled band that we are, we thought it could be a theme. On *Hell Blade* you saw "the Blade that's from the pit" rising out of the abyss, now handed over to the beast and his minions pictured on the front cover. These are demonic creatures searching for those who have not yet taken the mark of the beast. I wanted a dude hiding behind a car in fear for his life, but the artist didn't quite give me what I wanted, but nonetheless they are pointing to the dude with his head in his hands on the disc and he … is having a "Desperate Night."

The CD has a lot of sound effects this time around, which really add to the effect of the music. I'm referring to the opening and closing instrumental "The Crucible," which has the feel of Priest's "Metal Gods" to it, gunfire heard near the beginning of "Judgment," and the political soundbites from current and past presidents on "Inside Out." What inspired this, and what are you trying to say with "Inside Out?"
The intro is the evil minions carrying the Hell Blades, marching through the streets. I don't think it's a secret that I'm a tin-foil-hat-wearing, Bible-thumping, clinging-to-my-God-and-religion kind of guy, so to write a Tea Party type song is right up my alley. I'm tired of all the DC spending and want the government to get out of our way.

Actually, my surprise on the song "Inside Out" was hearing Obama's soundbites, knowing that you are a Tea Party type. The song worked out well, though. I think it has a message without being too heavy-handed, politically. I hate when bands do that.
The Obama sound bites are kind of sarcastic, have you seen the little video I put together? (www.youtube.com/watch?v=HoADgyenCaA) The intro to "Judgment" takes place in a coffee shop somewhere in Israel. A terrorist goes in and starts killing people and then that leads to the things to come, bringing us to an end and then the song ends with a nuclear explosion.

Personnel. Saint has had members come and go, and come back again occasionally. This album the lineup is



"When Jesus chose me, He scraped the bottom of the barrel, and most would agree this subculture is scraping pretty low as well, so I believe that's where I need to be."

Rich and Josh Kramer, Jerry Johnson on guitars, and the new drummer is Jared Knowland. Jared adds some serious skills on the rhythm end, as well as songwriting credits and production credits. How did he join the band?
Jared actually joined us for *Hell Blade* (note the similar drumming style); however, it wasn't official until November of 2010. Jared brings newness to the band and his influence will continue to cause us to grow. He just wrote a new song that we're arranging for a video that should be out soon.

And then there's a further line that adds: "and introducing Brian Phyll Miller – lead vocals." You know that Saint fans get a little scared when Josh Kramer – the voice of apocalyptic metal – is in absentia. It appears that the new guy sings only the title song, "Desperate Night" (and does it well, I might add.). The BGV's on this album sound really great. So, if the new guy is responsible for those, kudos to him ... but, you guys just updated the band photo on your website at saintsite.com and conspicuously missing is Josh Kramer. So, I feel compelled to ask: "What is going on?"
I've been looking at Brian for a long time, Josh is such an awesome singer, but he doesn't like it here (Oregon). So, doing videos and press pics or writing songs is very difficult when your singer lives 1,000 miles away. Then Josh also announced that he was going to look at other avenues as well, and so we would be limited to how often he could perform. After he declined to do *The Perfect Life* and then again *Crime Scene Earth* (which later he came back and sang) I started searching for vocalists who live in the area and like it here, and, of course, are Christian. Brian, I think, is going to be a huge part of Saint and I believe he will take us to a new level. Josh will most likely do some performances with us from time to time, but Brian is the voice of Saint now.

(Back to questions about the cover). Forgive me if I've asked about this before, but I recall hearing that, back in the day, the band Armored Saint tried to sue you guys, saying that the name Saint was too close to theirs. Now that Armored Saint is together again (I saw them play in 2011 – great band), is there any risk they will see the *Desperate Night* cover as copying their knight logo?
Had to go look and see what you're talking about. No, I don't think they would waste their money on a knight's helmet – and ours is different. My guys are like cyborgs. I sometimes wonder if they're a bit irritated that: One, we still have our name; and two, the name of our record company is Armor (that wasn't on purpose, by the way). I think about them as often as they most likely think about us.

The new CD is a masterful mix of classic and modern metal influences, with songs like "Crucified," "The Key," "Let it Rock" and "Escape from the Fire" that must be played full volume, windows down, pounding the steering wheel to the rhythm while screaming to the wind, as well as songs like "End of the World," which could easily have belonged in Saint's '80s canon, and the title track, which follows a more commercial vein. My question is two-fold: What music or events inspired you to be a metalhead back in the early days, and what or who influences the more modern sounds Saint incorporates in 2012?
I'm glad you like the CD, Chris. The one person responsible for molding me into the metalhead and songwriter that I became is John Mahan. This all happened way before Saint. Jared is the most influential member to bring in a more modern style.

The song "To Live Forever" (an) unused song from the *Too Late for Living* era, recorded 10 years later for the *Perfect Life* EP, and now re-recorded another 13 years later for *Desperate Night*. Any particular reason – or just to hear it with Josh singing?
We had a bunch of people request it. Many requests for "The Runner," as well. Then yes, there is the Josh-singing-it element, but mostly I wanted to take this song with so much meaning, that so many people relate to, and bring it to life and record it the way it was meant to be.

Last time we spoke, you related about how Saint's message will always be that of a prophet warning that "the end is near." Rich, what events brought you to salvation in Christ, and how is or isn't that related to your identity as a member of the heavy metal subculture?
My salvation is a long and drawn-out desperate night. I will tell you this – by the time I went to bed that night, I was baptized in the Spirit and no stumbling has kept me away from the grace I received that night. When Jesus chose me, He scraped the bottom of the barrel, and most would agree this subculture is scraping pretty low as well, so I believe that's where I need to be.

Josh's song "Zombie Shuffle" is a great way to use fantasy imagery to portray the real problem of drug addiction. Is there a story behind the song?
Josh wrote and played all the instruments on this song except drums. He told me that it's from a trip he made up to Washington state, where he oversaw the construction of a storage facility. He said there were so many drug users there and they were like zombies, hence the song was written.

Being a band that is more studio than live in function, how do you promote Saint to the masses?
We haven't, really – just word of mouth or whatever Retroactive has done, but we are about to do a push via magazines and web sites. We're in the middle of making a new music video – a new, never-before-heard song with Brian. We're planning some shows for next year, mostly in Germany, but some here in the U.S.

How can the fans help promote Saint and, more importantly, the gospel message?
Get on the social networks and pass around the band site, our Facebook pages, call or email your favorite radio station and request and, mostly, pray for us – that God's will be done in us, that He will use us for His glory and that we'll be obedient to the call.

What kind of merch and shirt designs do you have in store for the fans?
We have a new shirt coming out soon. It will have a band pic on the front and a small print on the back. We'll be putting up a band shot poster. Jared has a bunch of things he wants to make and, hopefully later this year, we'll have something new to look at and listen to... God bless you guys.

HEAVENS METAL

ALBUM REVIEWS

ANTIDEMON
APOCALYPSENOW
Much like the King they follow, it seems that Antidemon's fourth release is intent on destroying the works of the devil. This album is a heavy, churning maelstrom of old-school death metal. Think groovy and heavy, this is not brutal tech death. They still sound like themselves, it's just honed and sharpened with a fresh fire and better production to boot! The lyrics are included in both Portuguese and English, so you can get the gist of what is going on. Despite the fact that this has such an old-school vibe, I really am digging this and have played it numerous times. My main thought is that – despite it running around 45 minutes in length – it simply is not long enough. [Rowe Productions] Michael Larson

MESSENGER
YOU CHOOSE
This is one of those bands that people are either going to really like what they offer, or they will just turn up their nose at it (sadly). I think a lot of it comes from the era of music you grew up enjoying. For me, I had a healthy dose of a lot of the early classic Christian rock – that great raw sound of the bluesy hard rock, and those blatantly evangelical lyrics. Well, that is how I categorize Messenger – a modern take on that great classic sound – Jesus Music! This sophomore release gives us ten tracks along the same lines musically as the first, but taking it to new levels with a maturity in writing as well as the performing that really shines through. I am one of those who thought their first release was good – I think this second is better all around. [MM] Jeff McCormack

GERMAN PASCUAL
A NEW BEGINNING
Do you remember in 2009, when the amazing band Narnia hit us with the new album, *Course of a Generation*, that introduced us to a hot new voice handling the vocal position? Remember how the new band totally blew us away, and then as quick as it hit us, they announced that Narnia was no more? Well, here he is again with a solo release, and let me tell you – it is amazing. Now, personally I have a long history of loving the music of Narnia with Christian on vocals, but when Germán took over on vocals, it was such a hot and fresh new feel that it instantly became one of my favorite releases by the band. And truth be told, this new release could easily be considered a follow-up to that great Narnia release. Musically it is, of course, a blistering slab of melodic metal/power metal, dipping ever-so-slightly into a melodic thrash feel. At times, I tend to feel that maybe the Narnia release has a slightly more aggressive sounding edge in places, this album remains true to the style while feeling a bit more smooth throughout. Vocally, I think Germán sounds even hotter this time around. I cannot quite lay my finger on it, but the occasional "oddity" in his vocal style that I had mentally noted on the Narnia release seems absent here, to the point where if I were given a blind listening test between the two, I am not really sure I could tell you it was the same singer. This is Euro-metal at its finest! Tight blistering riffs and leads, and power hungry drums and bass fill the space behind Germán and build one monster of a power metal release. Now, a bit about the man behind the music with this official bio release: Vocalist Germán Pascual has appeared on releases by Divinefire, Narnia, and Mind's Eye. This solo release, *A New Beginning*, is being released to North American and Europe via Nightmare / Sony / RED. Blessed to have these special guest musicians joining on the album are Carl-Johan "CJ" Grimmark (Narnia / Fires Of Babylon / Rob Rock/ FullForce) and bassists Per Schelander (Pain of Salvation / Royal Hunt) and Raphael Dafras (Almah / Seven Horizons). This all-star lineup should let you know just how good this is sounding. [Nightmare] Jeff McCormack

TOURNIQUET
ANTISEPTIC BLOODBATH
The latest release from technical speed masters Tourniquet is upon us. Titled *Antiseptic Bloodbath*, it features just about everything you could want from a Tourniquet release: speedy technical riffage, classical instruments that are arranged to flow seamlessly into the titanic metal riffage, in-depth lyrical content and superior musicianship. This metal offering hits full speed on such tracks as "Lost Language of the Andamans" (don't let the intro fool you), "Flowering Cadaver" and the full-tilt title track. "86 Bullets" has a great riff that grabs you and forces the head to start bobbing back and forth, all the while retelling the tragic story of a circus elephant, named Tyke, who had to be shot after escaping. "Fed by Ravens, Eaten by Crows" (with spoken narration by Bob Beeman), "The Maiden Who Slept in a Glass Coffin," along with the aforementioned "Lost Language" benefit from hauntingly arranged strings. The almost sorrowful melodies seem to be a musical overture destined to grab one by the collar and demand a quick rewind to just hear what is being played. A string of guest stars on the guitar are planted throughout: Marty Friedman, Pat Travers, Bruce Franklin (Trouble), Karl Sanders (Nile) and Santiago Dobles (Aghora). To hear Pat Travers play on a Tourniquet album is quite a moment. Never fear, though, as Aaron Guerra shines throughout – the man has tone! Luke Easter provides a stellar vocal performance and Ted Kirkpatrick shows why he is one of the top drummers in metal. Produced by Neil Kernon, who has a very long and distinguished resume in the recording world (everything from Hall & Oates to Cannibal Corpse!), *Antiseptic Bloodbath* is tightly produced and meticulously executed. The instruments are given a chance to breathe while not losing their place in the mix, and that driving guitar tone just kicks one up the backside. Fans of Cynic and the like will want to give this release serious attention. *Antiseptic Bloodbath* is high-quality metal that forces one to examine their role in this life, while taking the listener on a dramatic journey of metal bliss. Don't miss this one, bang thy head with joy! [Pathogenic] Keven Crothers

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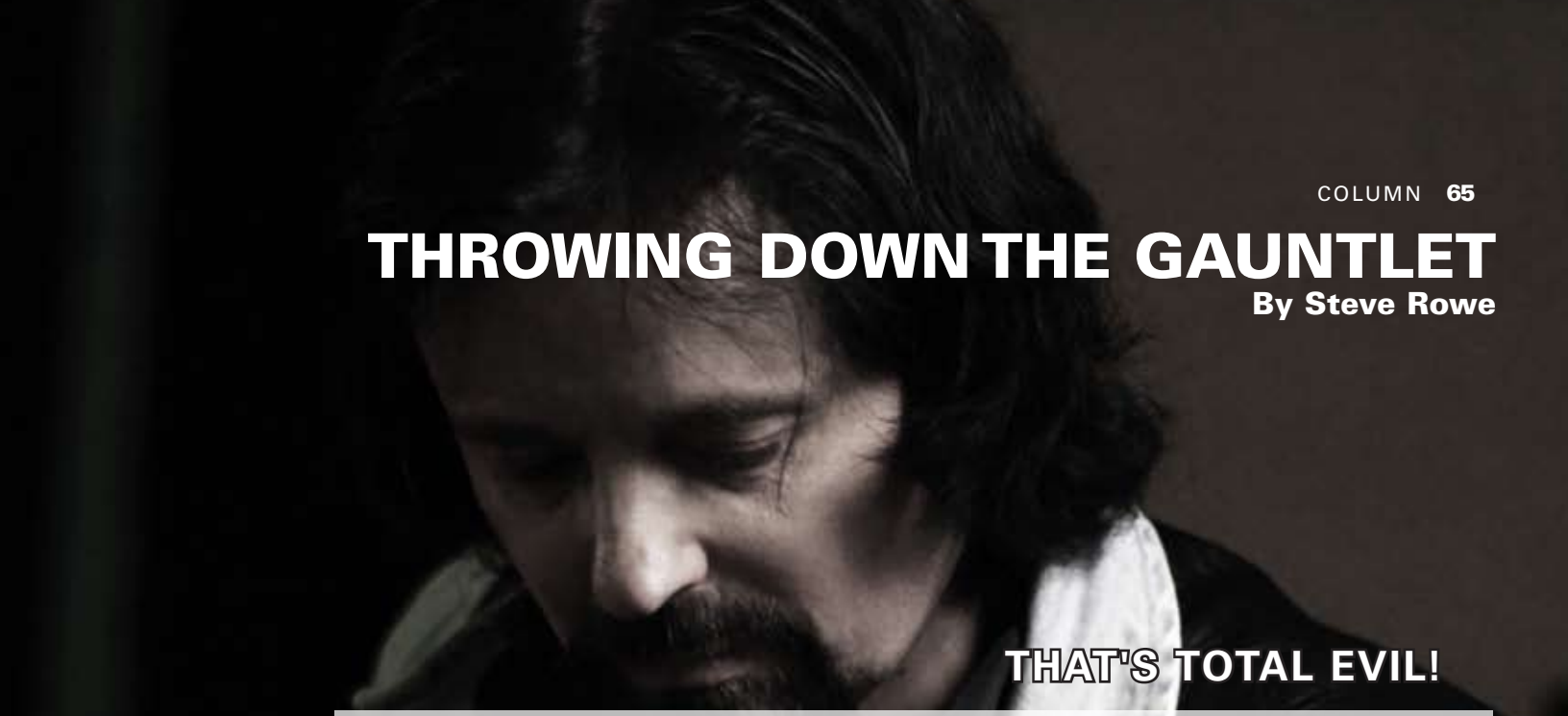
THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET

By Steve Rowe



THAT'S TOTAL EVIL!

In Wonrowe Vision we are currently in the process of Recording the fan fav song, "That's Total Evil," as well as a new studio version of "Pictures," which is a classic 1986 Lightforce song. "That's Total Evil" is my reflection on situations that effect me very badly that most may not even see as being evil.

Primarily it is about *the* evil of Internet music theft that is killing music art and, to my horror, is even seen as okay for "Christians??" I guess that Christians who steal have not read 1 Corinthians 6:10 – Thieves shall not inherit the kingdom of God! Time to repent, people, and go and sin no more! Even past Mortification members steal music from the Net!!?? As a Bible-believing Christian, I follow 1 Corinthians 5:11, which states that I should not even associate with a "brother" who cheats others! People: You are not just killing music art; but, most importantly, Gospel music art!

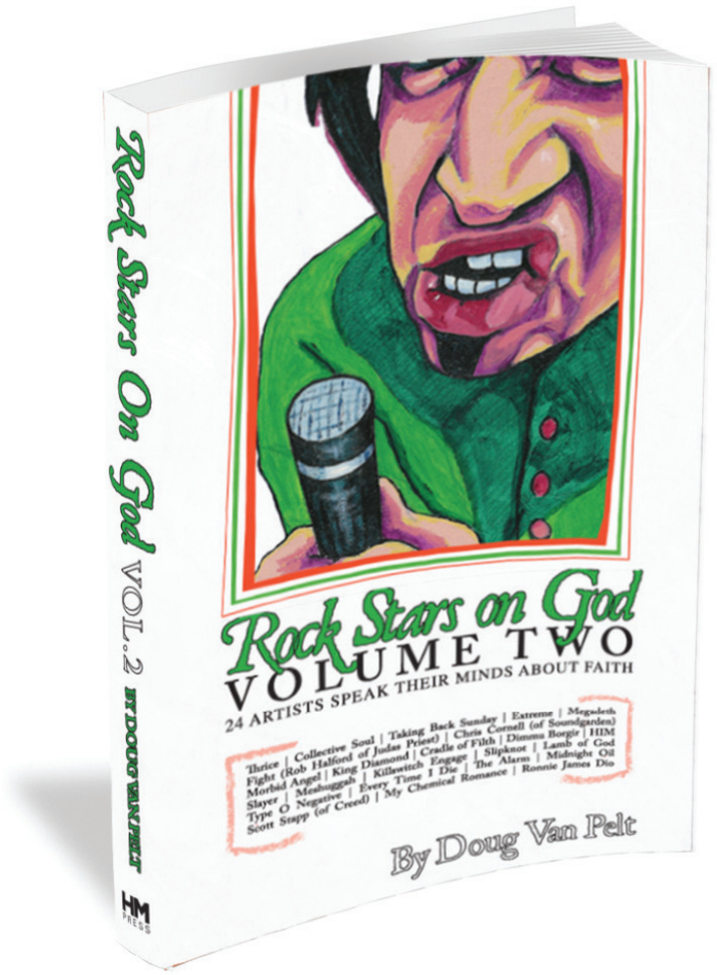
Secondly, the song deals with small-time local bands ripping off other small-time local bands!? We all understand how difficult it is to score a local gig, and some bands set up shows with the deliberate intent of ripping off their fellow local metal brothers? Which means they are no metal brothers at all! Many of us jump on the opportunity to play local gigs to get the opportunity to perform in a scene, trying to compete with major metal and heavy rock bands traveling through every week! Only to arrive at the end of the night and no one gets paid, except the headline nobody posers! That is just pure evil to rip off others who are battling on in metal with the rest of the diehards!

Lastly, the song deals with the increasing evil of Christians with physical disabilities being emotionally and spiritually abused by other "Christians?" I was at a Deep Purple concert about four years ago. 6,000 people in a huge hall here... I was with my closest friend Rob, who is not a Christian, but a tremendous man of long-time friendship. When I was the bassist in my band Lightforce in the late '80s Rob was the bassist in his band, Rapier. Part of the reason Rob quit performing 20 years ago was because of other local bands and promoters ripping him off. Anyway, we had just enjoyed a great show, singing along to classic Deep Purple songs and were walking out. I had been sitting for hours and so, with Paraplegia, it took me a while to get going. I was walking with my cane in my right hand and using a rail to my left to get up and walking.

So, I was walking along laughing and smiling with Rob and this dude is leaning on the rail blocking my path and looking at me rudely? He made me walk around him. As I was passing, he said, "You need to throw away that cane and go and follow God!" That's total evil! There have been a number of instances in different churches with people saying to me: "Why have you not received your healing? Do you have no faith?" These stupid people are lucky I am a pacifist, or I might enact Proverbs 30:33 – As the churning of milk brings forth butter, so the twisting of the nose brings forth blood! But I cannot do this – even though such action is deserving! The Scripture trails off: "...but the forcing of wrath brings forth strife…" And so we must love our enemies and Bless those who despitefully use us! This is a tough call, but the only response that I have! I am just stating facts here and not wanting revenge. "Vengeance is mine," saith the Lord, "I will repay!"

Blessings To All!

Lee Marie Hostetter of Children 18:3
(Photo: Natahsha Priya)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Rock Stars on God
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Type O Negative | Every Time I Die | The Alarm | Midnight Oil
Scott Stapp (of Creed) | My Chemical Romance | Ronnie James Dio
By Doug Van Pelt
HM PRESS

Q: What do you think of Jesus Christ?

A: "I thought he was a fool. I would not have died for the sins of humanity. They're not worth it. I don't believe that Christ was the Son of God."

–Peter Steele, Type O Negative (pg. 224)

Volume 2 of the popular *Rock Stars on God* series. This collection of 25 interviews from the pages of HM Magazine features:

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Via Dolorosa

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.
(Isaiah 53:5)